

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00878 030901Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7717

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0878

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: POPULAR PERCEPTIONS OF POLITBURO MEMBERS WANG TUNG-HSING, CHEN
HSI-LIEN

REF: PEKING 492

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PEKING PUBLICATIONS CLERK TOLD USLO OFFICER THAT PEKING MASSES VIEW POLITBURO MEMBERS WANG TUNG-HSING AND CHEN HSI-LIEN WITH MINGLED ANGER AND CONTEMPT BECAUSE OF THEIR "PUBLIC" ASSOCIATION WITH THE ANTI-TENG HSIAO-PING FORCES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RAMBLING CONVERSATION WITH USLO OFFICER ON MAY 3, PEKING PUBLICATIONS CLERK (REFTEL) SPOKE DISPARAGINGLY OF POLITBURO MEMBERS WANG TUNG-HSING AND CHEN HSI-LIEN. CLAIMING THAT HE REFLECTED MAJORITY OPINION OF PEKING'S MASSES -- WHO IN MAO'S WORDS HAD THE "POWER OF DISCERNMENT" -- CLERK SOURCED THE PAIR'S UNPOPULARITY
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TO THEIR "PUBLIC" ASSOCIATION WITH THE FORCES RESISTING REHABILITATION OF TENG HSIAO-PING.

3. CLERK SPOKE CONTEMPTUOUSLY OF "BODYGUARD" WANG TUNG-HSING. WHILE WANG REMAINED OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT DURING CHAIRMAN MAO'S LIFETIME, THE CLERK ASSERTED, THE MASSES WERE INDIFFERENT TO HIM. BUT WANG HAD RECENTLY ATTEMPTED TO

"HOG THE SCENE" (CH'ANG CHING-T'OU); HE HAD GONE TO
TO TACHING AND HAD HIMSELF PHOTOGRAPHED TOGETHER WITH
CHAIRMAN HUA EVEN THOUGH HE HAD NO OFFICIAL CONNECTION
WITH THE CONFERENCE. THE REAL SOURCE OF THE MASSES' ANGER,
HOWEVER, WAS WANG'S SPEECH TO A CENTRAL PROPAGANDA
CONFERENCE HELD IN PEKING DURING JANUARY-FEBRUARY.
ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE, WANG HAD "PUBLICLY BELITTLED"
TENG HSIAO-PING.

4. CLERK WAS VAGUE ON SPECIFICS OF PEKING MILITARY
REGION COMMANDER CHEN HSI-LIEN'S POSITION, THOUGH HE HINTED
THAT CHEN HAD ALSO ALIGNED HIMSELF WITH THE ANTI-TENG FORCES
AND WAS THUS A "STUPID OX" ("FAN-T'UNG," LITERALLY
"RICEBUCKET," HAS THIS CONNOTATION).
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Message Attributes

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